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Operational activities for development: triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

Draft resolution submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Mr. Azanaw Tadesse Abreha (Ethiopia), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.28

Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/211 of 22 December 1989, 47/199 of 22 December 1992, 50/120 of 20 December 1995, 52/203 of 18 December 1997, 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, 53/192 of 15 December 1998 and 56/201 of 21 December 2001, as well as Economic and Social Council resolutions 2002/29 of 25 July 2002, 2003/3 of 11 July 2003 and 2004/5 of 12 July 2004, and other relevant resolutions,

Reaffirming the importance of the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities, through which the General Assembly establishes key system-wide policy orientations for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system,

Recalling the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing coordination and guidance to the United Nations system to ensure that those policy orientations are implemented on a system-wide basis in accordance with Assembly resolutions 48/162 of 20 December 1993, 50/227 of 24 May 1996 and 57/270 B of 23 June 2003,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000,[1] including the development and poverty eradication goals contained therein, and further recalling the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, and other major United Nations conferences

[1] See resolution 55/2.

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and summits in the economic, social and related fields, and their importance for international development cooperation, in particular for the operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Noting, in this context, the activities of the United Nations funds and programmes aimed at providing technical assistance to recipient countries, in response to their national economic and social needs and priorities, including poverty eradication and the promotion of all human rights, including the right to development, for achieving sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences, and stressing the need for those activities to be undertaken at the request of interested recipient Governments strictly within the respective mandates of the United Nations funds and programmes, which should receive increased contributions from donor countries,

Recognizing that the transition from relief to development represents a complex challenge as regards the universal achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,[2]

Reiterating that developing countries are responsible for their own development processes, and in this context stressing the responsibility of the international community, in partnership, to assist developing countries in their national development efforts,

Recognizing that the United Nations development system should take into account the specific needs and requirements of the countries with economies in transition and other recipient countries,

Recognizing also that new technologies, including information and communication technologies, present an opportunity to accelerate development, especially in developing countries, and noting that the access to those technologies is uneven and that a digital divide still prevails,

Reaffirming the need to ensure, in a coherent and timely manner, the full implementation of all the elements of its resolutions 44/211, 47/199, 50/120, 53/192 and 56/201 and the parts relevant to operational activities for development of its resolution 52/12 B, which should be considered an integral part of the present resolution,

Reiterating the importance of the development of national capacities to eradicate poverty and pursue sustained economic growth and sustainable development as a central goal of the development cooperation of the United Nations system,

Recognizing that new trends in development assistance, including sector-wide approaches and budget support, pose challenges to the United Nations, and stressing that the United Nations has a role to play to assist developing countries to manage the new aid modalities,

Noting the advances that the United Nations development system is making in the area of coordination, including in the implementation of resolution 56/201,

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[2] The internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

Encouraging the governing bodies of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to ensure that gender perspectives are integrated into all aspects of their monitoring functions in relation to policies and strategies, medium-term plans, multi-year funding frameworks and operational activities, including those relating to the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

I. Introduction

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system;[3]

2. *Reaffirms* that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the development needs of recipient countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities of the United Nations system are carried out for the benefit of recipient countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development;

3. *Urges* all Member States to pursue the full implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and recognizes the positive contribution that these can make in providing direction to the operational activities of the United Nations system in accordance with national development efforts and priorities;

4. *Recognizes* that the strength of the United Nations operational system lies in its legitimacy at the country level as a neutral, objective and trusted partner for both recipient countries and donor countries;

5. *Stresses* that national Governments have the primary responsibility for their countries' development, and recognizes the importance of national ownership of development programmes;

6. *Emphasizes* that recipient Governments have the primary responsibility for coordinating, on the basis of national strategies and priorities, all types of external assistance, including that provided by multilateral organizations, in order to integrate effectively such assistance into their development process,

7. *Emphasizes* that the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be valued and assessed on the basis of their impact on the recipient countries as contributions to enhance their capacity to pursue poverty eradication, sustained economic growth and sustainable development;

8. *Calls upon* the United Nations development system to highlight best practices, where these can inform national efforts to implement policies that promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development, inter alia, through the rule of law and the strengthening of effective, efficient, transparent and accountable systems for mobilizing resources;

9. *Decides* that, with the agreement of the host country, the United Nations development system should assist national Governments in creating an enabling

[3] A/59/84-E/2004/53, A/59/85-E/2004/68, A/59/386 and A/59/387.

environment in which the links between national Governments, the United Nations development system, civil society, national non-governmental organizations and the private sector that are involved in the development process are strengthened, with a view to seeking new and innovative solutions to development problems in accordance with national policies and priorities;

10. *Stresses* that the purpose of reform is to make the United Nations development system more efficient and effective in its support to developing countries to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, on the basis of their national development strategies, and stresses also that reform efforts should enhance organizational efficiency and achieve concrete development results;

11. *Requests* the organizations of the United Nations system to continue their efforts to respond to national development plans, policies and priorities, which constitute the only viable frame of reference for programming their operational activities at the country level, and to pursue full integration of the operational activities for development at the country-level with national planning and programming, under the leadership of national governments, at all stages of the process, while ensuring the full involvement of all relevant stakeholders at the national level;

12. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Secretary-General, through the members of the United Nations Development Group and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, as appropriate, to enhance the coherence, effectiveness and efficiency of the United Nations development system at the country level;

13. *Recognizes* that strengthening the role and capacity of the United Nations development system to assist countries in achieving their development goals requires continuing improvement in its effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact, along with a significant increase in resources and an expansion of its resource base on a continued, more predictable and assured basis;

II. Funding for operational activities for development of the United Nations system

14. *Emphasizes* that increasing the financial contributions to the United Nations development system is key to achieving the Millennium Development Goals,[2] and in this regard recognizes the mutually reinforcing links between increased effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of the United Nations development system, achieving concrete results in assisting developing countries to eradicate poverty and achieve sustained economic growth and sustainable development through operational activities for development and the overall resourcing of the United Nations development system;

15. *Emphasizes* that funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system should focus on long- term development challenges based on national development strategies;

16. *Notes with concern* that the United Nations development system has not benefited commensurately from recent increases in official development assistance, despite the additional tasks entrusted to the United Nations system in the implementation and follow-up of internationally agreed goals;

17. *Stresses* that core resources, because of their untied nature, continue to be the bedrock of the United Nations system's operational activities, and in this regard notes with appreciation that core contributions to United Nations funds and programmes have begun to increase again over the last three years;

18. *Calls upon* donor countries and other countries in a position to do so to substantially increase their contributions to the core/regular budgets of the United Nations development system, in particular the funds and programmes, and wherever possible, to contribute on a multi-year basis;

19. *Urges* developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product as official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product of developed countries to least developed countries, as reconfirmed at the Third United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, encourages developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help achieve development goals and targets, acknowledges the efforts of all donors, commends those donors whose official development assistance contributions exceed, reach or are increasing towards the targets, and underlines the importance of undertaking to examine the means and time frames for achieving the targets and goals;

20. *Notes* the increase in non-core resources as a mechanism to supplement the means of operational activities for development, contributing to an increase in total resources, while recognizing that non-core resources are not a substitute for core resources and that unearmarked contributions are vital for the coherence and harmonization of the operational activities of the United Nations system;

21. *Invites* the governing bodies of all organizations of the United Nations development system to address systematically the funding of their operational activities and to explore, within the context of their multi-year planning and related financial frameworks, where appropriate, additional sources of financial support and alternative funding modalities so as to secure, on a predictable, continuous and sustained basis, the critical mass of resources required to ensure adequate functioning and pursuit of long-term development objectives;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to improve his annual statistical compendium to the operational activities segment of the Economic and Social Council by adding a multi-year perspective, fully incorporating available information and statistics;

23. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to undertake triennially, as of 2006, a comprehensive review of trends and perspectives in funding for development cooperation;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States, to explore various funding options for increasing financing for operational activities and to examine ways to enhance the predictability, long-term stability, reliability and adequacy of funding for the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, including through the identification of possible new funding sources, as a follow-up to his report[4] while preserving the advantages of the current funding modalities, and to submit a report to the General Assembly through the

[4] A/59/387.

substantive session of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in 2005;

25. *Recognizes* the urgent and specific needs of low-income countries, in particular the least developed countries, and stresses the need to continue to assist those countries through the existing institutions and funding mechanisms of the United Nations development system;

III. Capacity-building

26. *Recognizes* that capacity development and ownership of national development strategies are essential for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals,[2] and calls upon United Nations organizations to provide further support to the efforts of developing countries to establish and/or maintain effective national institutions and to support the implementation and, as necessary, the devising of national strategies for capacity-building;

27. *Urges* all organizations of the United Nations development system to intensify inter-agency information sharing at the system-wide level on good practices and experiences gained, results achieved, benchmarks and indicators, monitoring and evaluation criteria concerning their capacity-building activities;

28. *Encourages* all organizations of the United Nations development system to include reporting on their capacity-building activities in their annual reports to their respective governing bodies;

29. *Requests* the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to analyse the capacity development efforts of the United Nations development system and to make recommendations on measures necessary to enhance their effectiveness, including through the improvement of the assessment and measurement of results;

30. *Calls upon* United Nations organizations to further strengthen the capacity of developing countries to better utilize the various aid modalities, including system-wide approaches and budget support;

31. *Also calls upon* United Nations organizations to adopt measures that ensure sustainability in capacity-building activities, and reiterates that the United Nations development system should use, to the fullest extent possible, national execution and available national expertise and technologies as the norm in the implementation of operational activities;

32. *Stresses* that developing countries, in order to meet the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, should have access to new and emerging technologies, including information and communication technologies, which requires technology transfer, technical cooperation and the building and nurturing of scientific and technological capacity to participate in the development and adaptation of these technologies to local conditions, and in this regard urges Member States and the United Nations system to ensure the promotion and transfer of new and emerging technologies to developing countries;

33. *Encourages* the United Nations development system to support the national development strategies and plans of countries with economies in transition that face continuing difficulties in economic and social development, specifically to

assist them in addressing the challenges of achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

IV. Transaction costs and efficiency

34. *Invites* the governing bodies of all organizations of the United Nations system actively involved in development cooperation activities and their respective management to adopt harmonization and simplification measures, with a view to achieving a significant reduction in the administrative and procedural burden on the organizations and their national partners that derives from the preparation and implementation of operational activities;

35. *Notes* the progress achieved in the area of simplification and harmonization as defined in section VI of resolution 56/201, with the assistance of the United Nations Development Group, and calls upon the funds, programmes and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system to continue to implement the simplification and harmonization agenda by taking further steps to enhance and ensure the sustainability of that process;

36. *Requests* the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to examine ways to further simplify their rules and procedures and, in this context, to accord the issue of simplification and harmonization high priority and to take concrete steps, in the following areas: rationalization of country presence through common premises and co-location of members of United Nations country team; implementation of the joint office model; common shared support services, including security, information technology, telecommunications, travel, banking and administrative and financial procedures, including for procurement; harmonization of the principles of cost recovery policies, including that of full cost recovery; alignment of the regional technical support structures and regional bureaux at headquarters level, including their regional coverage; and to take further simplification and harmonization measures;

37. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in full consultation with all members of the United Nations Development Group, through the Executive Committee of the Development Group, to submit to the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session in 2005, a programme of work for the full implementation of the above-mentioned actions, to be completed before the end of 2007, including benchmarks, responsibilities, provisions to phase out redundant rules and procedures, as well as a timetable to monitor the progress made towards meeting these targets;

38. *Invites* the executive boards and governing bodies of the funds, programmes and the specialized agencies regularly to assess the progress achieved in the area of simplification and harmonization of rules and procedures;

39. *Requests* the funds and programmes to provide, in their annual reports to the Economic and Social Council, specific information on the progress achieved in implementing the above-mentioned agenda;

40. *Requests* the United Nations Development Group to consult regularly with the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on all activities undertaken to implement the above;

V. Coherence, effectiveness and relevance of operational activities for development

A
Common country assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework

41. *Requests* the United Nations system to conduct the Common Country Assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes as efforts to improve the support for national development priorities and policies, and stresses that full governmental ownership, participation and leadership is required at all stages of those processes;

42. *Welcomes* the efforts made so far by the United Nations system in the context of an improved functioning of the resident coordinator system, including through the Common Country Assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, in order to achieve greater country-level programmatic coherence within the system and to foster teamwork among the organizations of the system, in particular those represented at the country level;

43. *Recognizes* that, in spite of these efforts, participation of the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations development system in country-level operational activities for development and coordination mechanisms still differs in level, quality and intensity, and that for some organizations it is inadequate, and in this context calls upon the United Nations development system to improve its country-level coordination so as to optimize its support to national development efforts, at the request of national authorities;

44. *Calls* on the United Nations system to draw from its accumulated experience in all pertinent economic, social and other domains and to facilitate the access of developing countries to the services available within the system on the basis of its comparative advantages and expertise;

45. *Calls upon* the United Nations development system to foster an inclusive approach in promoting inter-agency collaboration, both at the country and headquarters levels, and requests the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Group, to take the necessary steps to secure a more participatory involvement of the United Nations development system in the country-level operations and their coordination mechanisms, including through promotion, decentralization, the delegation of authority and multi-year programming, which will facilitate their participation in country-level coordination mechanisms;

46. *Stresses* the importance of the common country assessment as the common analytical tool of the United Nations system at the country-level, including the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and other United Nations agencies with no country representation or limited country-level presence, which should contribute their accumulated analytical and normative experience so as to enable the use of all capacities available within the United Nations system;

47. *Notes* the progress made by the United Nations operational system in developing and using the common country assessment and stresses that the formulation of the assessment is meant to be short, light, and flexible;

48. *Underlines* the complementarity of the common country assessment to other analytical processes, and urges all funds, programmes and agencies to avoid duplication by utilizing, to the maximum extent possible, the common country assessment as their own country-level analytical tool;

49. *Reiterates* that the ownership of national authorities and their full participation in the preparation and development of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework are key to guaranteeing that it responds to the national development plans and poverty reduction strategies of the countries concerned, and requests the Secretary-General to develop the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and its results matrix where applicable, as the common programming tool for country-level contributions of the funds and programmes towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals,[2] to be fully endorsed and counter-signed by the national authorities;

50. *Notes* the potential of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and its results matrix, as the collective, coherent and integrated programming and monitoring framework for the operations of the United Nations development system at the country level, bringing increased opportunities for joint initiatives, including joint programming, and urges the United Nations development system to fully utilize such opportunities in the interest of enhancing aid efficiency and aid effectiveness;

51. *Requests* the Secretary-General, through the Executive Committee of the United Nations Development Group, in consultation with the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to ensure that United Nations Development Group agencies with multi-year programmes as well as the entities of the Secretariat that carry on operational activities in pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals,[2] fully align their respective programming and monitoring with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, as well as take further steps to harmonize their programming cycles and to synchronize them as far as possible with the national programming instruments, in particular the national poverty reduction strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist;

52. *Invites* the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions, to explore further ways to enhance cooperation, collaboration and coordination, including through the greater harmonization of strategic frameworks, instruments, modalities and partnership arrangements, in full accordance with the priorities of the recipient governments, and in this regard emphasizes the importance of ensuring, under the leadership of national authorities, greater consistency between the strategic frameworks developed by the United Nations funds and programmes, agencies and the Bretton Woods institutions, while maintaining the institutional integrity and organizational mandates of each organization and the national poverty reduction strategies, including poverty reduction strategy papers where they exist;

B

Resident coordinator system and United Nations country teams

53. *Reaffirms* that the resident coordinator system, within the framework of national ownership, has a key role to play in the effective and efficient functioning of the United Nations system at the country level, including in the formulation of the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance

Framework and is a key instrument for the efficient and effective coordination of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, and requests the United Nations system, including the funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and the Secretariat, to enhance support to the resident coordinator system;

54. *Urges* the United Nations system to provide further financial, technical and organizational support for the resident coordinator system, and requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the members of the United Nations Development Group to ensure that resident coordinators have the necessary resources to fulfil their role effectively;

55. *Welcomes* the improvements in the selection process and training of the resident coordinators, and urges the members of the Executive Committee of the United Nations Development Group, in full consultation with the members of the Development Group, to develop a procedure for the common assessment of the performance of resident coordinators by all members of the United Nations country teams;

56. *Notes* that coordination activities, while beneficial, represent transaction costs that are borne by both recipient countries and the organizations of the United Nations system, and emphasizes the need for their continuous evaluation and for an analysis and assessment of costs compared with the total programme expenditures for operational activities for development in order to ensure maximum efficiency and feasibility;

57. *Reaffirms* that the system-wide utilization of advanced information and communication technologies by the United Nations system could contribute to enhanced information sharing and knowledge management, resulting in more effective delivery of development cooperation by the United Nations system, and encourages United Nations organizations to intensify their efforts to expand the use of information and communication technologies and to further harmonize their information technology platforms;

58. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in full consultation with all agencies of the United Nations Development Group and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, as appropriate, to develop, by the end of 2005, a comprehensive accountability framework for resident coordinators to exercise oversight of the design and implementation of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, in a fully participatory manner, in support and under the leadership of national governments;

59. *Underscores* that the resident coordinator system is owned by the United Nations development system as a whole and that its functioning should be participatory, collegial and accountable;

60. *Also underscores* that the management of the resident coordinator system continues to be firmly anchored in the United Nations Development Programme, while recognizing that many resident coordinators, especially in countries with large country teams, complex coordination situations or in situations of complex emergencies, lack the capacity to address equally well all tasks inherent to their functions, and in this regard requests that in such cases the United Nations Development Programme appoint, within the existing programming arrangement, a country director to run its core activities, including fund-raising, so as to assure that resident coordinators are fully available for their tasks;

61. *Requests* that, when raising funds, resident coordinators concentrate on raising funds for the whole of the United Nations at the country-level;

VI. Country-level capacity of the United Nations system

62. *Reaffirms* the principle, as contained in resolutions 44/211 and 47/199, that the country-level presence of the United Nations system should be tailored to meet the specific development needs of recipient countries, as required by their country programmes;

63. *Emphasizes* the need for the range and level of skills and expertise assembled by the United Nations system at the country level to be commensurate with that needed to deliver on the priorities specified in each country's United Nations Development Assistance Framework, in line with the national development strategies and plans, including poverty reduction strategy papers, where they exist, and to correspond to the technical backstopping and capacity-building needs and requirements of the developing countries;

64. *Stresses* the principle that no core function of the Secretariat can be outsourced to operational bodies, in particular at the field level, without proper financial compensation;

65. *Invites* the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations development system to consider means to strengthen their country-level capacities, including through complementary measures at their headquarters;

VII. Evaluation of operational activities for development

66. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to assess the effectiveness of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system, including, in particular, by assessing the effective use of all capacities available to provide a comprehensive and flexible response to the demand of developing countries for development support, and to report on the results of this assessment in the context of the next triennial policy review at its sixty-second session;

67. *Reaffirms* that the effectiveness of operational activities should be assessed by their impact on the poverty eradication efforts, economic growth and sustainable development of recipient countries;

68. *Underlines* that future assessments of the effectiveness of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should make full use of the data and expertise available within the system and from national authorities in full collaboration with national stakeholders and United Nations entities;

69. *Recognizes* the need to optimize the linking of evaluation to performance in the achievement of developmental goals, and encourages the United Nations development system to strengthen its evaluation activities, with particular focus on development results, including through the effective use of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework results matrix, the systematic use of monitoring and evaluation approaches at the system-wide level and the promotion of collaborative approaches to the evaluation, including joint evaluations, and further encourages the United Nations Evaluation Group, under the aegis of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to make further progress

in system-wide collaboration on evaluation, in particular harmonization and simplification of methodologies, norms, standards and cycles of evaluation;

70. *Strongly encourages* country-level evaluations of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework at the end of the programming cycle, based on the Fund's results matrix, with full participation and leadership of the recipient government;

71. *Recognizes* that national governments have primary responsibility for coordinating external assistance, including that from the United Nations system, and evaluating its impact in contributing to national priorities;

72. *Requests* the United Nations development system to conduct evaluations of its operations at the country-level, in close consultation with national governments, and in this context stresses the need to assist governments in the development of national evaluation capacities, through, inter alia, better use of lessons learned from past activities at the country level;

73. *Requests* the United Nations development system to consider, where appropriate, applying lessons learned in the course of monitoring and evaluation to programming processes;

74. *Stresses* the need for all organizations of the United Nations development system to implement their global, regional and country-level activities in accordance with their mandates and the priorities of the recipient countries, urges their governing bodies to ensure that the activities, responsibilities and operational strategies of each fund and programme are consistent with their mandates and the overall policy guidance set forth by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and to report on these issues within the context of the annual reports submitted to the Council, and requests the Secretary-General to include an assessment of these issues in the report on the triennial comprehensive policy review prepared for the sixty-second session of the General Assembly;

75. *Requests* that the United Nations Development Programme conduct full consultation with the Member States prior to issuing global and regional flagship reports, in accordance with, inter alia, the principles contained in resolution 57/264;

VIII. Regional dimensions

76. *Calls upon* the organizations of the United Nations development system, its regional commissions and other regional and subregional entities, as appropriate and consistent with their mandates, to intensify their cooperation and adopt more collaborative approaches to support country-level development initiatives at the request of recipient countries, in particular through closer collaboration within the resident coordinator system and by improving mechanisms for access to the technical capacities of the United Nations system at the regional and subregional levels;

77. *Invites* the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations development system to give greater and more systematic consideration to the regional and subregional dimensions of development cooperation and to promote measures for more intensive inter-agency collaboration at the regional and subregional levels, facilitating inter-country exchanges of experience and promoting both intraregional and interregional cooperation, as appropriate;

78. *Encourages* development agencies of the United Nations system to seek to maximize the opportunity to address development challenges on a regional or subregional basis, where appropriate, recognizing the important contribution of regional cooperation to national and regional development;

IX. South-South cooperation and development of national capacities

79. *Welcomes* the growing importance of South-South cooperation and its adoption as a driver of development effectiveness within the multi-year funding framework of the United Nations Development Programme;

80. *Urges* organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to mainstream, in their programmes and through their country-level activities and country offices, modalities to support South-South cooperation that would promote identification and dissemination of best practices, promote indigenous knowledge, know-how and technology in the South and facilitate networking among experts and institutions in developing countries;

81. *Invites* Member States and the organizations of the United Nations development system to celebrate the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation in a befitting and comprehensive manner every year;

82. *Emphasizes* the need to mobilize additional resources for enhancing South-South cooperation, including from both the United Nations system and donors, and through triangular cooperation;

83. *Urges* all the Member States and the organizations of the United Nations development system to actively participate in the High-Level Committee on the Review of South-South Cooperation with a view to formulating and reviewing the strategies as well as sharing information and their experience;

84. *Encourages*, in this regard, United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies as well as centres of excellence in the South to contribute to the periodic updating of the Web of Information for Development electronic databank operated by the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme in coordination with governments, allowing for the wide diffusion of and access to the information contained therein, including experiences, best practices and potential partners in South-South cooperation;

85. *Highlights* the fact that, in spite of progress achieved in this area, further efforts are required to better understand the approaches and potential of South-South cooperation to enhance development effectiveness, including through national capacity development, and in this context calls upon all the organizations of the system to further enhance their support for national capacity development in the context of South-South cooperation;

X. Gender

86. *Calls upon* all organizations of the United Nations system, within their organizational mandates, to mainstream gender and to pursue gender equality in their country programmes, planning instruments and sector-wide programmes and to articulate specific country-level goals and targets in this field in accordance with the national development strategies;

87. *Urges* all organizations of the system to collaborate with the resident coordinator system to provide gender specialist resources in support of gender mainstreaming in country-level activities in all sectors where they operate, working closely with relevant national counterparts in generating the gender disagregated, quantitative and qualitative information required to produce better analysis of gender-related issues of development;

88. *Requests* all entities of the United Nations system to enhance the effectiveness of gender specialist resources, gender focal points and gender theme groups, by establishing clear mandates; by ensuring adequate training, access to information and to adequate and stable resources; and by increasing the support and participation of senior staff;

89. *Calls upon* the United Nations development system to avail itself of the technical experience of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on gender issues;

90. *Encourages* the continuing efforts to achieve gender balance in appointments within the United Nations system at the headquarters and country levels in positions that affect operational activities, including resident coordinator appointments, with due regard to representation of women from developing countries and keeping in mind the principle of equitable geographic representation;

91. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the annual report on resident coordinators includes adequate and concise information on progress on the above;

XI. Transition from relief to development

92. *Takes note* of the ongoing work within the United Nations on the complex issue of transition from relief to development;

93. *Recognizes* that the United Nations development system has a vital role to play in situations of transition from relief to development;

94. *Requests* the organizations of the system to strengthen interdepartmental and inter-agency coordination to ensure an integrated, coherent and coordinated approach to assistance at the country level, which takes account of the complexity of challenges that countries in those circumstances face and the country-specific character of those challenges;

95. *Recognizes* in this regard the important role that the effective resident coordinator/humanitarian coordinator system can play in the situations of transition from relief to development;

96. *Stresses* in this regard the need for such transitional activities to be undertaken under national ownership through the development of national capacities at all levels to manage the transition process;

97. *Recognizes* the benefits of sharing experience and expertise, and encourages the development of South-South cooperation modalities, including triangular cooperation modalities, to assist the transition from relief to development through, inter alia, the use of information technologies and knowledge management systems, as well as exchange of expertise to enable countries in that situation to benefit from the experience of other developing countries;

98. *Urges* the donor countries and other countries in a position to do so to consider more coordinated and flexible approaches to funding operational activities for development in situations of transition from relief to development, making use of multiple resource mobilization instruments, and stresses that contributions to humanitarian assistance should not be provided at the expense of development assistance and that sufficient resources for humanitarian assistance should be made available by the international community;

99. *Urges* United Nations agencies and the donor community, in coordination with the national authorities, to begin planning the transition to development and taking measures supportive of that transition, such as institutional and capacity-building, from the beginning of the relief phase;

XII. Follow-up

100. *Reaffirms* that the governing bodies of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system should take appropriate actions for the full implementation of the present resolution, in line with paragraphs 91 and 92 of resolution 56/201;

101. *Requests* the Secretary-General, after consultation with the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, to submit a report to the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 2005, on an appropriate management process, containing clear guidelines, targets, benchmarks and time frames for the full implementation of the present resolution;

102. *Invites* the Economic and Social Council, during the operational activities segment of its substantive session of 2006, to examine the operational activities of the United Nations system in order to evaluate the implementation of the present resolution with a view to ensuring its full implementation;

103. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, through the Economic and Social Council, a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the present resolution in the context of the triennial policy review, including, inter alia, by making use of relevant documentation, and to make appropriate recommendations.

United Nations A/C.2/59/L.64

General Assembly

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Fifty-ninth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 89 (a)
Eradication of poverty and other development issues: implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Majdi Ramadan (Lebanon) on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.49

Role of microcredit and microfinance in the eradication of poverty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/193 and 52/194 of 18 December 1997, 53/197 of 15 December 1998 and 58/221 of 23 December 2003,

Recognizing that microcredit and microfinance programmes have succeeded in generating productive self-employment and proved to be an effective tool in assisting people to overcome poverty and reducing their vulnerability to crisis, and have led to their growing participation, in particular the participation of women, in the mainstream economic and political processes of society,

Welcoming the efforts made in the field of property rights, and noting that an enabling environment at all levels, including, inter alia, transparent regulatory systems and competitive markets foster the mobilization of resources and access to finance for people living in poverty,

Bearing in mind the importance of microfinance instruments, such as credit, savings and other financial products and services, in providing access to capital for people living in poverty,

Recognizing the need to create inclusive financial sectors in order to facilitate access for people living in poverty, especially women, to microfinance and microcredit so as to enable them to undertake microenterprises to generate employment and contribute to achieving self-empowerment, and to enhance their ability to increase income, build assets and mitigate vulnerability in times of hardship,

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Noting that the availability of microcredit and microfinance to people living in poverty, especially women, can support entrepreneurship and spur the development of microenterprises, providing goods, services and income to the poor, thus raising incomes and fostering equitable growth,

Recalling its resolution 53/197 of 15 December 1998, by which it proclaimed 2005 the International Year of Microcredit and requested that the observance of the Year be a special occasion for giving impetus to microcredit and microfinance programmes in all countries, particularly the developing countries,

Encouraging the holding and supporting of regional, subregional and national events on the observance of the International Year of Microcredit, 2005,

Noting the ongoing efforts by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat and the United Nations Capital Development Fund in jointly coordinating the activities of the United Nations system regarding the preparation and observance of the year, and noting also the ongoing efforts of public and private development agencies, including, inter alia, the Consultive Group to Assist the Poor on Microfinance and Microcredit,

Noting also that the international community is observing the period 1997-2006 as the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006) and preparations for the International Year of Microcredit, 2005;[1]

2. *Welcomes* the launching of the International Year of Microcredit, 2005;

3. *Emphasizes* that the observance of 2005 as the International Year of Microcredit will provide a significant opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of microcredit and microfinance in the eradication of poverty, to share good practices and to further enhance financial sectors that support sustainable pro-poor financial services in all countries;

4. *Recognizes* the importance of scaling up microcredit and other microfinance instruments, using the Year as a platform to find ways of enhancing development impact and sustainability through the increased dissemination of data and sharing of best practices and lessons learned among microcredit and microfinance institutions, and welcomes the ongoing efforts of United Nations regional organizations, United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies responsible for operational activities related to development in promoting microfinance and microcredit institutions, inter alia, supporting the development of entrepreneurship;

5. *Reiterates* its invitation to Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and civil society to collaborate, including through making voluntary contributions, in observing the Year, to raise public awareness and knowledge about microcredit and microfinance;

6. *Recognizes* that access to microfinance and microcredit, can contribute to the achievement of the goals and targets of major United Nations conferences and

[1] A/59/326 and Add.1.

summits in the economic and social fields, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular the goals relating to poverty eradication, gender equality and the empowerment of women;

7. *Invites* Member States to consider undertaking policies to facilitate the expansion of microfinance and microcredit institutions in order to service the large unmet demand among poor people for financial services, including the identification and development of mechanisms to promote sustainable access to financial services, the removal of institutional and regulatory obstacles, and the provision of incentives to microfinance institutions that meet national standards for delivering such financial services to the poor;

8. *Also invites* Member States to consider developing and promoting regulatory guidance and standards to ensure effectiveness in management, financial reporting, internal auditing, domestic supervision and accountability among microfinance institutions;

9. *Decides* to devote one plenary meeting at its sixty-first session to the consideration of the outcome and the follow-up to the International Year of Microcredit, with a view to broadening and deepening the discussion about microcredit and microfinance;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the observance of the International Year of Microcredit, 2005 and on the implementation of the present resolution, and to submit it to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session under the item entitled "Implementation of the first United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006)".

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Fifty-ninth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 92 (a)
Training and research: United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Draft resolution submitted by the Rapporteur of the Committee, Mr. Azanaw Tadesse Abreha (Ethiopia) on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.51

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/188 of 16 December 1996, 52/206 of 18 December 1997, 53/195 of 15 December 1998, 54/229 of 22 December 1999, 55/208 of 20 December 2000, 56/208 of 21 December 2001, 57/268 of 20 December 2002 and 58/223 of 23 December 2003,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General[1] and the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research,[2]

Acknowledging the work of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on the functioning of the Institute,

Noting the continued progress made by the Institute in its various programmes and activities, including the strengthened cooperation with other organizations of the United Nations system and with regional and national institutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Governments and private institutions that have made or pledged financial and other contributions to the Institute,

Noting that the bulk of the resources contributed to the Institute is directed to the Special Purpose Grants Fund rather than to the General Fund, stressing the need to address that unbalanced situation and also noting that the participation of the developed countries in training programmes in New York and Geneva is increasing,

Noting also that the Institute is self-funded, does not receive any kind of subsidies from the United Nations regular budget and provides, free of charge,

[1] A/59/230.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 14* (A/59/14).

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training courses to diplomats and delegates accredited to United Nations Headquarters in New York and to the United Nations offices at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi,

Noting further the various ongoing training programmes of the Institute, including those in the field of sustainable development,

Reiterating that training activities should be accorded a more visible and larger role in support of the management of international affairs and in the execution of the economic and social development programmes of the United Nations system,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of a coordinated United Nations system-wide approach to research and training, based on an effective coherent strategy and an effective division of work among the relevant institutions and bodies;

2. *Also reaffirms* the relevance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, in view of the growing importance of training within the United Nations and the training requirements of States, and the relevance of the training-related research activities undertaken by the Institute within its mandate;

3. *Welcomes* the progress made in building partnerships between the Institute and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system with respect to their training programmes, and in this context underlines the need to develop further and to expand the scope of those partnerships, in particular at the country level;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the activities of the Institute's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Hiroshima, Japan, during its first year of existence;

5. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Institute's Project Field Office in Dushanbe;

6. *Requests* the Board of Trustees of the Institute to continue to ensure fair and equitable geographical distribution and transparency in the preparation of the programmes and in the employment of experts, and in this regard stresses that the courses of the Institute should focus primarily on development issues and the management of international affairs;

7. *Renews its appeal* to all Governments, in particular those of developed countries, and to private institutions that have not yet contributed financially or otherwise to the Institute, to give it their generous financial and other support, and urges the States that have interrupted their voluntary contributions to consider resuming them in view of the successful restructuring and revitalization of the Institute;

8. *Encourages* the Board of Trustees to consider diversifying further the venues of the events organized by the Institute and to include the cities hosting regional commissions, in order to promote greater participation and reduce costs;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the one-time provision to cancel the Institute's past debts decided upon in section XIV of General Assembly resolution 58/272 of 23 December 2003;

10. *Stresses* the need for continued consideration of the issues related to the Institute's rent, rental rates and maintenance costs, taking into account its financial situation, with a view to its expeditious resolution;

11. *Encourages* the Board of Trustees of the Institute to continue its efforts to resolve the critical financial situation of the Institute, in particular with a view to broadening its donor base and to further increasing the contributions to the General Fund;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including details on the status of contributions to and the financial situation of the Institute and decides to consider the issue of the periodicity of the agenda item entitled "Training and research" at its sixtieth session.

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Fifty-ninth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 89 (c)
Eradication of poverty and other development issues: industrial development cooperation

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Majdi Ramadan (Lebanon), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.47

Industrial development cooperation

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/151 of 18 December 1991, 49/108 of 19 December 1994, 51/170 of 16 December 1996, 53/177 of 15 December 1998, 55/187 of 20 December 2000 and 57/243 of 20 December 2002 on industrial development cooperation,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by heads of State and Government on 8 September 2000,[1]

Reaffirming the outcomes of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held at Doha from 9 to 14 November 2001,[2] the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held at Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001,[3] the International Conference on Financing for Development, held at Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002,[4] and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held at Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,[5]

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[1] See resolution 55/2.
[2] A/C.2/56/7, annex.
[3] A/CONF.191/11 and 12.
[4] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7) chap. I, resolution 1, annex.
[5] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex, and resolution 2, annex.

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Recognizing the role of the business community, including the private sector, in enhancing the dynamic process of the development of the industrial sector, and underlining the importance of the benefits of foreign direct investment in that process,

Recognizing also the importance of the transfer of technology to the developing countries and countries with economies in transition as an effective means of international cooperation in the pursuit of poverty eradication and sustainable development,

Taking note of the corporate strategy of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, which aims at, inter alia, promoting productivity growth as a means of supporting the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and the measures being taken to operationalize this strategy,

Taking note also of the signing of the cooperation agreement between the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Development Programme on 23 September 2004 and that the agreement should lead to improvement of the field presence of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and a better fulfilment of its primary objective, which is to promote and accelerate industrial development in the developing countries while retaining its identity, visibility and core competencies, and noting that it establishes, inter alia, a basis for both institutions to develop joint technical cooperation programmes in support of private sector development in developing countries,

Taking note further of the signing of a memorandum of technical cooperation between the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the World Trade Organization, at Cancun, Mexico, on 10 September 2003, aiming at the joint development and implementation of trade-related technical cooperation programmes,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[6] and welcomes the conclusions and recommendations contained therein;

2. *Reaffirms* that industrialization is an essential factor in the sustained economic growth, sustainable development and eradication of poverty of developing countries and countries with economies in transition as well as creation of productive employment, income generation and facilitation of social integration, including the integration of women into the development process;

3. *Stresses* the critical role of productive capacity-building and industrial development for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[1]

4. *Takes note* of the comprehensive review of the activities of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization conducted in line with its corporate strategy, which has enabled it to become a more focused, effective and efficient organization, especially for developing countries and countries with economies in transition, capable of delivering concrete outcomes and providing valuable contributions to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

[6] A/59/138.

5. *Emphasizes* the necessity of favourable national and international measures for the industrialization of developing countries, and urges all Governments to adopt and to implement development policies and strategies to unleash the productivity growth potential through private sector development, diffusion of environmentally sound and emerging technologies, investment promotion, enhanced access to markets and effective use of official development assistance to enable developing countries to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and to make this process sustainable;

6. *Underlines* the importance of industrial development cooperation and of a positive investment and business climate at the international, regional, subregional and national levels in promoting the expansion, diversification and modernization of productive capacities in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

7. *Takes note with appreciation* of the organization of the Global Biotechnology Forum, held at Concepción, Chile, from 2 to 5 March 2004, which was organized jointly by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the Government of Chile, with support from the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, and takes note of decision IDB.28/Dec.6 of the Industrial Development Board of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization;

8. *Confirms* the contribution of industry to social development, especially in the context of the linkages between industry and agriculture, and notes that, within the totality of these interlinkages, industry serves as a powerful source of employment generation, income creation and social integration required for the eradication of poverty;

9. *Calls for* the continuing use of official development assistance for industrial development in the developing countries and countries with economies in transition, calls upon donor countries and recipient countries to continue to cooperate in their efforts to achieve greater efficiency and effectiveness of official development assistance resources devoted to industrial development cooperation and to support the efforts of developing countries and countries with economies in transition to promote industrial development cooperation among themselves, and underlines the importance of mobilizing funds for industrial development at the country level, including private funding and funds from relevant development finance institutions;

10. *Also calls*, in this regard, *for* continuing use of all other resources, including private and public, foreign and domestic resources, for industrial development in the developing countries and countries with economies in transition;

11. *Reiterates* the importance of cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system in providing effective support for the sustainable industrial development of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and calls upon the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to continue to carry out its central role in the field of industrial development according to its mandate;

12. *Encourages* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to continue to enhance its effectiveness, relevance and development impact by, inter alia, strengthening its cooperation with other institutions of the United Nations system at all levels;

13. *Calls upon* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to participate actively in coordination at the field level through the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework processes and sector-wide approaches;

14. *Emphasizes* the need to promote the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, including by means of training, education and skills enhancement, with a special focus on agro-industry as a provider of livelihoods for rural communities;

15. *Stresses* the need for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to promote, within its mandate, the development of competitive industries in developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as well as in landlocked developing countries;

16. *Reaffirms* the need to support the survival and expansion of industrial manufacturing activity in developing countries, and in this regard calls upon the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to continue to improve its technical cooperation activities through, inter alia, the areas of technology diffusion and capacity-building for market access and development;

17. *Welcomes* the active role played by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization in the High-Level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, and encourages it to continue promoting enhanced coordination and coherence within the United Nations system, with a view to reinforcing the quality and relevance of the United Nations in the field of economic development;

18. *Requests* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to facilitate industrial development with emphasis on the priority areas outlined in its medium-term programme framework, 2004-2007;

19. *Encourages* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to increase its contributions to achieve the objectives of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[7] with a view to further strengthening the industrialization process in Africa;

20. *Also encourages* the United Nations Industrial Development Organization to develop further its global forum capacity according to its mandate, with the aim of enhancing, in the context of the globalization process, a common understanding of global and regional industrial sector issues and their impact on poverty eradication and sustainable development, and calls for further strengthening of the demand-driven integrated programme approach at the field level;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[7] A/57/304, annex.

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Fifty-ninth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 87 (c)
Globalization and interdependence: preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of funds of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Antonio Bernardini (Italy), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.22

Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of funds of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 54/205 of 22 December 1999, 56/186 of 21 December 2001 and 57/244 of 20 December 2002, and recalling also its resolution 58/205 of 23 December 2003 on preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets to the countries of origin,

Recalling also the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[1] which underlined that fighting corruption at all levels is a priority, and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[2]

Emphasizing the need for solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and the need to improve the efficiency, transparency and accountability of domestic administration and public spending and the rule of law, to ensure full respect for human rights, including the right to development, and to eradicate corruption and build sound economic and social institutions,

Recognizing that fighting corruption at all levels is a priority and that corruption is a serious barrier to effective resource mobilization and allocation and

[1] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

04-64461 (E) 131204

diverts resources away from activities that are vital for poverty eradication, the fight against hunger and economic and sustainable development,

Noting the particular concern of developing countries and countries with economies in transition regarding the return of assets of illicit origin derived from corruption to the countries from which they originated, consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,[3] in particular chapter V, in view of the importance that such assets can have to their sustainable development,

Recognizing the concern over the transfer and or transaction of assets of illicit origin, and stressing the need to address this concern consistent with the principles of chapter V of the United Nations Convention against Corruption,

Recognizing also that the illicit acquisition of wealth can be particularly damaging to democratic institutions, national economies and the rule of law,

Convinced that a stable and transparent environment for national and international commercial transactions in all countries is essential for the mobilization of investment, finance, technology, skills and other important resources, and recognizing that effective efforts at all levels to combat and avoid corruption in all its forms in all countries are essential elements of an improved national and international business environment,

Concerned about the links between corruption in all its forms, including bribery, money-laundering and the transfer of assets of illicit origin, and other forms of crime, in particular organized crime and economic crime,

Reiterating its concern about the seriousness of problems and threats posed by corruption to the stability and security of societies, undermining the institutions and the values of democracy, ethical values and justice and jeopardizing sustainable development and the rule of law, in particular when an inadequate national and international response leads to impunity,

Welcoming the initiatives taken by the Commonwealth secretariat and the Group of Eight with regard to fighting corruption and improving transparency, including the initiative of the Group of Eight to support with bilateral technical assistance those countries committed to a partnership to increase transparency, good governance and the rule of law, and welcoming also the efforts of those Member States that have entered into "Compacts to Promote Transparency and Combat Corruption" with the Group of Eight,

Noting with appreciation the high-level political conference for the purpose of signing the United Nations Convention against Corruption, held in Merida, Mexico, in December 2003,

Recalling its resolution 58/4 of 31 October 2003, in which it adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption and urged all States and competent regional economic organizations to sign and ratify it,

1. *Condemns* corruption in all its forms, including bribery, money-laundering and the transfer of assets of illicit origin;

[3] Resolution 58/4, annex.

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

3. *Welcomes* the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;[3]

4. *Reiterates* its invitation to all Member States and competent regional economic integration organizations to sign, ratify and fully implement the United Nations Convention against Corruption as soon as possible in order to ensure its rapid entry into force;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts of Member States that have enacted laws and taken other positive measures in the fight against corruption in all its forms including, inter alia, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and in this regard encourages Member States that have not yet done so to enact such laws;

6. *Encourages* all Governments to prevent, combat and penalize corruption in all its forms, including bribery, money-laundering and the transfer of illicitly acquired assets, and to work for the prompt return of such assets, through asset recovery consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, particularly chapter V;

7. *Also encourages* subregional and regional cooperation, where appropriate, in the efforts to prevent and combat corrupt practices and the transfer of assets of illicit origin as well as for asset recovery consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, particularly chapter V;

8. *Calls for* further international cooperation, inter alia, through the United Nations system, in support of national, subregional and regional efforts to prevent and combat corrupt practices and the transfer of assets of illicit origin, as well as for asset recovery consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, particularly chapter V;

9. *Encourages* Member States to provide adequate financial and human resources to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and also encourages the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to give high priority to technical cooperation, upon request, to, inter alia, promote and facilitate the signing and ratification, acceptance, approval or accession and the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, including the early finalization, in cooperation with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, of the legislative guide for the ratification and implementation of the Convention;

10. *Reiterates* its request to the international community to provide, inter alia, technical assistance to support national efforts to strengthen human and institutional capacity aimed at preventing and combating corrupt practices and the transfer of assets of illicit origin as well as for asset recovery consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, particularly chapter V, and formulating strategies for mainstreaming and promoting transparency and integrity in both the public and private sectors;

11. *Urges* all Member States, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption, to abide by the principles of proper management of public

[4] A/59/203 and Add.1.

affairs and public property, fairness, responsibility and equality before the law and the need to safeguard integrity and to foster a culture of transparency, accountability and rejection of corruption;

12. *Calls upon* the private sector, at both the international and the national levels, including small and large companies and transnational corporations, to remain fully engaged in the fight against corruption, welcomes the agreement to add anti-corruption as the tenth principle of the Global Compact, and emphasizes the need for all relevant stakeholders, including within the United Nations system, as appropriate, to continue to promote corporate responsibility and accountability;

13. *Encourages* all Member States that have not yet done so to require financial institutions to properly implement comprehensive due diligence and vigilance programmes, consistent with the principles of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and other applicable instruments, that could facilitate transparency and prevent the placement of illicitly acquired funds;

14. *Also encourages* Member States, relevant international organizations and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to give prominence to 9 December as International Anti-Corruption Day, as established by the General Assembly in its resolution 58/4;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and on the impact of corruption in all its forms, including on the scale of transfers of assets of illicit origin and the impact of corruption and such outflows on economic growth and sustainable development.

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Fifty-ninth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 87 (a)
Globalization and interdependence: globalization and interdependence

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Antonio Bernardini (Italy), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.20

Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/169 of 15 December 1998, 54/231 of 22 December 1999, 55/212 of 20 December 2000, 56/209 of 21 December 2001, 57/274 of 20 December 2002 and 58/225 of 23 December 2003 on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence,

Recalling also its resolution 58/291 of 6 May 2004,

Reaffirming the resolve expressed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for the people of the world,

Recognizing that globalization and interdependence have opened new opportunities for the growth of the world economy and development, that globalization offers new perspectives for the integration of developing countries into the world economy and that it can improve the overall performance of developing countries' economies by opening up market opportunities for their exports, by promoting the transfer of information, skills and technology and by increasing the financial resources available for investment in physical and intangible assets, acknowledging that globalization has also brought new challenges for growth and sustainable development and that developing countries have been facing special difficulties in responding to them, recognizing that some countries have successfully adapted to the changes and benefited from globalization but that many others,

[1] See resolution 55/2.

especially the least developed countries, have remained marginalized in the globalizing world economy, and recognizing also that, as stated in the Millennium Declaration, the benefits and costs of globalization are very unevenly distributed,

Recognizing also that a universal, rule-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, as well as meaningful trade liberalization, can substantially stimulate development worldwide, benefiting countries at all stages of development, reaffirming its commitment to trade liberalization and to ensuring that trade plays its full part in promoting economic growth, employment and development for all, welcoming in that regard the decisions of the World Trade Organization to place the needs and interests of developing countries at the heart of its work programme, and committing itself to their implementation,

Recognizing further that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated,

Noting that an overall commitment to multiculturalism helps to provide an environment preventing and combating discrimination and promoting solidarity and tolerance in our societies,

Recognizing that an enabling economic environment should, inter alia, foster a dynamic and well-functioning business sector and include efforts to further promote good corporate governance, to combat corruption in the public and private sectors and to promote the strengthening of and respect for the rule of law,

Noting that particular attention must be given, in the context of globalization, to the objective of protecting, promoting and enhancing the rights and welfare of women and girls, as stated in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[2]

Taking note of the report entitled *A fair globalization: Creating opportunities for all* of the World Commission on the Social Dimension of Globalization,[3] as a contribution to the international dialogue towards a fully inclusive and equitable globalization,

Noting the report of the Commission on the Private Sector and Development entitled *Unleashing Entrepreneurship: Making Business Work for the Poor*,[4]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations has a central role in promoting international cooperation for development and in promoting policy coherence on global development issues, including in the context of globalization and interdependence;

3. *Reaffirms also* that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized;

4. *Invites* the international community, including all Member States, to devote special attention to improving resource flows for development, including

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[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[3] *A fair globalization: Creating opportunities for all* (Geneva, International Labour Office, 2004).

[4] See http://www.undp.org/cpsd.

[5] A/59/312.

public and private, foreign and domestic, to assist the developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;[1]

5. *Stresses* that in the common pursuit of growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development, a critical challenge is to ensure the necessary internal conditions for mobilizing domestic savings, both public and private, sustaining adequate levels of productive investment and increasing human capacity, while a crucial task is to enhance the efficacy, coherence and consistency of macroeconomic policies and an enabling domestic environment is vital for mobilizing domestic resources, increasing productivity, reducing capital flight, encouraging the private sector and attracting and making effective use of international investment and assistance, and in this regard stresses also that efforts to create such an environment should be supported by the international community;

6. *Underlines* that in addressing the linkages between globalization and sustainable development, particular focus should be placed on identifying and implementing mutually reinforcing policies and practices that promote sustained economic growth, social development and environmental protection and that this requires efforts at both national and international levels;

7. *Reiterates* that success in meeting the objectives of development and poverty eradication depends, inter alia, on good governance, both within individual countries and at the international level, sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions that are responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure, which are the basis for sustained growth, poverty eradication and employment creation, and that transparency in financial, monetary and trading systems and commitment to an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading and financial system, are equally essential;

8. *Stresses* that improved coherence between national and international efforts and between the international monetary, financial and trading systems is fundamental for sound global economic governance; in this context reaffirms the commitment to improving the coherence between those systems in order to enhance their capacities to better respond to the needs of development and recognizes that the institutional dimension in terms of development is central; emphasizes that development should be at the centre of the international economic agenda and that coherence between national development strategies, on the one hand, and international obligations and commitments, on the other, contributes to the creation of an enabling economic environment for development; and stresses the need to broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in international economic decision-making and norm-setting;

9. *Stresses also* that development strategies have to be formulated with a view to minimizing the negative social impact of globalization and maximizing its positive impact, while ensuring that all groups of the population, and in particular the poorest, benefit from it, and that at the international level, efforts have to converge on the means to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

10. *Underlines* that the increasing interdependence of national economies in a globalizing world and the emergence of rule-based regimes for international

economic relations have meant that the space for national economic policy, i.e., the scope for domestic policies, especially in the areas of trade, investment and industrial development, is now often framed by international disciplines, commitments and global market considerations, that it is for each Government to evaluate the trade-off between the benefits of accepting international rules and commitments and the constraints posed by the loss of policy space and that it is particularly important for developing countries, bearing in mind development goals and objectives, that all countries take into account the need for appropriate balance between national policy space and international disciplines and commitments;

11. *Reaffirms* that education, employment creation and improvement of working conditions, which are some of the indispensable elements of poverty eradication, social integration, gender equality and overall development, should be at the centre of development strategies and international cooperation in support of national policies, and recognizes the need to promote employment that takes into account labour standards as defined in the relevant instruments of the International Labour Organization and other international instruments;

12. *Urges* all Governments to ensure women's equal rights with men and their full and equal access to education, training, employment, technology and economic and financial resources, including credit, in particular for rural women and women in the informal sector, and to facilitate, where appropriate, the transition of women from the informal to the formal sector;

13. *Stresses* the importance of migration as a phenomenon accompanying increased globalization, including its impact on economies, and underlines further the need for greater coordination and cooperation among countries as well as relevant regional and international organizations;

14. *Recognizes* the special needs of the least developed countries, the small island developing States and the landlocked developing countries within a new global framework for transit transport cooperation for landlocked and transit developing countries, and reaffirms continued support and assistance for their endeavours, particularly in their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and the implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[6] the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[7] and the Almaty Programme of Action;[8]

15. *Emphasizes* the importance of recognizing and addressing the specific concerns of countries with economies in transition so as to help them to benefit from globalization, with a view to their full integration into the world economy;

16. *Invites* all relevant agencies of the United Nations system, through, inter alia, the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, within

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[6] A/CONF.191/11.

[7] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[8] *Report of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 28 and 29 August 2003* (A/CONF.202/3), annex I.

existing resources, to continue to review the impact of their work on the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration;

17. *Welcomes* the decision taken by the General Council of the World Trade Organization on 1 August 2004, which rededicates and recommits members to fulfilling the development dimensions of the Doha Development Agenda,[9] which places the needs of developing and least developed countries at the heart of the Doha Work Programme;

18. *Stresses* the need to build an inclusive information society, which is intrinsically global in nature, and that therefore national efforts need to be supported by effective international and regional cooperation among Governments, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders, including the international financial institutions, in order, inter alia, to assist in bridging the digital divide, promoting access to information and communication technologies, creating digital opportunities and harnessing the potential of information and communication technologies for development, and invites the World Summit on the Information Society to encourage all stakeholders in this regard;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on globalization and interdependence;

20. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled "Globalization and interdependence".

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[9] See A/C.2/56/7, annex.